

**THE PENDING CLAIMS**

1-162. (cancelled)

163. (previously presented) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising,  
a shaft having a curved portion; and  
a sling assembly including  
a urethral support sling having a substantially flat shape,  
a pouch for covering only partially the sling, and  
an end for associating with an end of the shaft.

164. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the shaft comprises  
first and second ends, the first end of the shaft attaches to a handle, and the second  
end of the shaft associates with the sling assembly.

165. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the shaft comprises  
an engaging member located at a distal end.

166. (previously presented) The system of claim 165, wherein the engaging  
member is capable of engaging the end of the sling assembly.

167. (previously presented) The system of claim 166, wherein the engaging  
member is capable of releasably engaging the end of the sling assembly.

168-169. (cancelled)

170. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the sling assembly  
comprises an elongated extension located at the end of the sling assembly.

171. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the sling assembly  
comprises an aperture located at the end of the sling assembly.

172. (cancelled)

173. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second ends of the sling assembly.
174. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.
175. (previously presented) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising, a shaft having a solid cross-section for a substantial length of the shaft and having a curved portion and an engaging member on a distal end of the shaft; and a sling assembly comprising a urethral support sling having a substantially flat shape, and an engaging surface complementary to the engaging member; wherein, the engaging member is capable of securely engaging the engaging surface.
176. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the engaging member of the shaft is inserted into the engaging surface of the sling assembly.
177. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the shaft is capable of receiving the sling assembly.
178. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the shaft is capable of releasably receiving the sling assembly.
179. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the sling assembly is indirectly connected to the shaft.
180. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the engaging surface is indirectly connected to the sling assembly.
181. (cancelled)
182. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the sling assembly further comprises a pouch for covering only partially the sling.

183. (previously presented) The system of claim 182, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second end of the sling assembly.

184. (previously presented) The system of claim 182, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

185. (previously presented) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising, a shaft having a solid cross-section for a substantial length of the shaft and having a curved portion and a distal end; and  
a sling assembly comprising a urethral support sling having a substantially flat shape, and an end capable of fitting over the distal end of the shaft.

186. (previously presented) The system of claim 185, wherein the shaft is capable of engaging the sling assembly.

187. (previously presented) The system of claim 185, wherein the shaft is capable of releasably engaging the sling assembly.

188. (previously presented) The system of claim 185, wherein the sling assembly is indirectly connected to the shaft.

189. (cancelled)

190. (previously presented) The system of claim 185, wherein the sling assembly further comprises a pouch for covering only partially the sling.

191. (previously presented) The system of claim 190, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second ends of the sling assembly.

192. (previously presented) The system of claim 190, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

193. (previously presented) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising, a handle;

a shaft having a solid cross-section for a substantial length of the shaft and attached to the handle and having an engaging member located at an end and a curved portion; and

a sling assembly comprising a urethral support sling having a substantially flat shape, and an end capable of securely engaging the engaging member of the shaft.

194. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the engaging member is capable of receiving the end of the sling assembly.

195. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the engaging member is capable of releasably receiving the end of the sling assembly.

196. (cancelled)

197. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the sling assembly comprises an elongated extension located at the end of the sling assembly.

198. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the sling assembly comprises an aperture located at the end of the sling assembly.

199. (cancelled)

200. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the sling assembly further comprises a pouch for covering only partially the sling.

201. (previously presented) The system of claim 200, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second ends of the sling assembly.

202. (previously presented) The system of claim 200, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

203. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.

204. (previously presented) The system of claim 182, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.

205. (previously presented) The system of claim 190, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.

206. (previously presented) The system of claim 200, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.

207. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the sling is releasably withdrawable from said pouch.

208. (previously presented) The system of claim 182, wherein the sling is releasably withdrawable from said pouch.

209. (previously presented) The system of claim 190, wherein the sling is releasably withdrawable from said pouch.

210. (previously presented) The system of claim 200, wherein the sling is releasably withdrawable from said pouch.